

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 06393 191657Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----126821 191700Z /50

O 191620Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 458
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 6393

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV EAID PEPR CG
SUBJ: DEMARCHE TO MOBUTU ON REFORMS: FRENCH LEAD OFF

REF: KINSHASA 6370

1. SUMMARY: FRENCH AMBASSADOR MADE INITIAL DEMARCHE TO MOBUTU JUNE 19, PRESENTING TEXT OF MEMORANDUM AGREED TO BY PARIS FIVE. MOBUTU, WHO WAS COURTEOUS BUT SOMBER, INDICATED AGREEMENT WITH ALL POINTS MADE BUT DID NOT ELABORATE ON ANY PLANS TO IMPLEMENT THEM. OTHER PARIS FIVE REPS WILL MAKE THEIR DEMARCHES MORNING JUNE 20. END SUMMARY.

2. FRENCH AMB ROSS WAS RECEIVED BY MOBUTU AT NOON JUNE 19. MEETING WAS PRECEDED BY TELEPHONE CALL TO MOBUTU FROM PRES GISCARD WHO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHED TO THE DEMARCHES ABOUT TO BE MADE. ACCORDING TO ROSS, IT WAS THIS CALL THAT INDUCED MOBUTU TO DELAY PLANS TO TRAVEL TO SHABA LONG ENOUGH TO RECEIVE THE PARIS FIVE REPS.

3. ROSS IMMEDIATELY GAVE MOBUTU AGREED TEXT OF MEMORANDUM, WHICH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINSHA 06393 191657Z

MOBUTU READ CAREFULLY FROM BEGINNING TO END IN "COURTEOUS BUT SOMBER MOOD". IN DISCUSSION THAT FOLLOWED, ROSS STRESSED NEED FOR IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA AND RECONCILIATION BETWEEN CENTRAL GOVT AND SHABANS. ON ANGOLA, MOBUTU SAID THERE WAS NOBODY MORE WILLING THAN HE TO REACH AN UNDERSTANDING WITH NETO; BUT IT TAKES TWO TO REACH SUCH AN UNDERSTANDING, AND MOBUTU'S OVERTURES STARTING IN JAN 1977 (WHEN HE UNILATERALLY RECOGNIZED THE LUANDA REGIME)

HAD NOT BEEN RECIPROCATED. ROSS SUGGESTED SOMETHING MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED NOW "IN A NEW FRAMEWORK". AS FOR MEDIATION, MOBUTU RECALLED HE HAD TRIED NIGERIA AND CONGO, AND NOW KAUNDA HAD OFFERED TO HELP. MOBUTU SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE CONFIDENCE IN KAUNDA DESPITE THE KATANGANS HAVING USED ZAMBIAN TERRITORY TO ATTACK ZAIRE, BUT THAT HE WAS SKEPTICAL THAT WHATEVER EFFORTS KAUNDA MIGHT MAKE WOULD BE EFFECTIVE.

4. ON NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, ROSS RECALLED THAT WHEN HE TOOK POWER IN 1965 MOBUTU GAINED SUPPORT AS A MEDIATOR AMONG ZAIRE'S DIFFERING TRIBES. FRANCE HOPED THAT, TODAY, MOBUTU COULD ADOPT AN ATTITUDE OF CLEMENCY IN DEALING WITH THE LUNDA AND SHABA'S OTHER TRIBAL POPULATIONS, AND OF SYMPATHY TOWARD CERTAIN ONES OF THEM (E.G., NGUZA). SUCH A POLICY OF RECONCILIATION WOULD YIELD POLITICAL BENEFITS, BOTH INTERNALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY. MOBUTU AGREED, AND SAID HE HAD ALREADY GIVEN ORDERS (PRESUMABLY TO FAZ) IN THAT VEIN. ROSS STRESSED THAT ORDERS WERE ONE THING, BUT THEIR ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION WAS YET ANOTHER. MOBUTU DID NOT RESPOND.

5. ROSS REVIEWED BRIEFLY THE ECONOMIC POINTS, MENTIONING SPECIFICALLY AS AGREED THE NECESSITY OF QUICKLY PLACING FOREIGN EXPERTS IN KEY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND ESTABLISHING FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROLS. MOBUTU CONFIRMED THAT HE APPROVED THESE AND ALL OTHER REFORMS MENTIONED BY GOZ DELEGATION IN BRUSSELS.

6. IN CONCLUSION, MOBUTU, SAID HE WAS "IN TOTAL AGREEMENT"
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KINSHA 06393 191657Z

WITH POINTS RAISED IN PARIS FIVE'S MEMORANDUM, NOTING THAT MOST OF THOSE POINTS WERE ONES ON WHICH HE HIMSELF HAD INITIATED ACTION IN THE CONTEXT OF HIS REFORM PROGRAMS. DESPITE ALL HIS PRESENT DIFFICULTIES, MOBUTU SAID, HE COULD NOT DECEIVE HIS FRIENDS.

7. COMMENT: AS ANTICIPATED, THE FRENCH DEMARCHE WAS MADE IN TERMS THAT WERE QUITE GENERAL AND PROBABLY GENTLE AS WELL. ROSS APPARENTLY DID NOT GET INTO ANY OF THE SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING INTERNAL POLITICAL REFORMS. NOR DID HE RAISE THE QUESTION OF IMPROVING THE ARMY, EXPLAINING THAT HE HAD DONE SO ON SEVERAL PREVIOUS OCCASIONS. BUT AT LEAST THE BALL HAS BEEN SET IN MOTION, AND IN SUCH A WAY AS NOT TO TURN MOBUTU OFF WITH RESPECT TO GOING THROUGH WITH THE REST OF THE DEMARCHES. I WILL MAKE MY PITCH EARLY MORNING JUNE 20, FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY THE BRITISH, BELGIAN AND GERMAN.
CUTLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, GOVERNMENT REFORM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KINSHA06393
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780255-0424
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780645/aaaabmrl.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f2fc4086-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 KINSHASA 6370
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2301409
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEMARCHE TO MOBUTU ON REFORMS: FRENCH LEAD OFF
TAGS: PDEV, EAID, PEPR, CG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f2fc4086-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014